(c) the details of the plan formulated for setting up of more electronic telephone exchanges in these States during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The details of electronic telephone exchanges set up in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and the NER during the last three years are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The requisite information is being collected any reply will be laid on the Table of the house.

Statement

Details of electronic Telephone Exchanges set up during the last three years

Sl. No.	State	No. of electronic Telephone Exchanges set up during the years		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	Uttar Pradesh	407	477	262
2	Orissa	71	133	74
3	Madhya Pradesh	95	101	144
4	Bihar	100	251	117
5	Jharkhand	36	56	25
6	Uttranchal	22	29	18
7	North East Region	97	108	83
	TOTAL	828	1155	723

Teledensity through WLL Technology

1673. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is possibility to increase teledensity through WLL technology at comparatively lesser cost than the fixed telephone lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof with elucidation in comparative terms the salient features of the fixed line telephone and WLL-technology based telephone;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the tele-density adopting WLL technology within the next two financial year;

(d) whether Government are considering to achieve the target through reduced rent and tariff on WLL based telephones; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) is playing an important role in deployment of telephones in the country. However, it is not possible to establish a definite correlation between tele-density and the cost of provision of WLL as tele-density depends upon provision of telephones which in turn depends upon demands for telephones. The salient features of fixed lines telephones and WLL technology based telephones are :

In fixed line telephones, connections are provided through a pair of normally copper cable to each subscriber, whereas in WLL system connections are provided on wireless technology. Laying of underground cable is time consuming, whereas WLL deployment is fast. Interruption in service will be there whenever cable is cut in fixed line connections due to man made/natural calamities, whereas interruption in WLL are not dependent on such eventualities except equipment fault. Fixed line telephone on copper cable are able to provide higher data rates compared to the presently deployed WLL systems though in future deployments this difference will disappear.

(c) The Government through its Public sector units *i.e.* Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) & Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are planning to deploy 29.87 lakh lines on WLL during the next two financial years.

(d) and (e) Tariff is fixed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) who have absolute powers to fix it and Government has no role in tariff fixation.